

9/12/69 RW

What a wierdo! The CIA sends the Secret Service "several reports or communications concerning the assassination" but under a "security rating ~~zzzzzzprazzzzzz~~ which precludes their delivery to the Commission by the Secret Service"!

What possible content could such reports have? And besides, isn't the CIA supposed to know nothing about the assassination? Of Oswald, or Ruby, or anything else?

Willens drafted this letter, presumably after consultation with Rankin. February 12 was a late hour to be informing the CIA of the Commission's charge. The opening formality is a rather severe reminder/criticism/complaint, something like the FBI "Information Breakdown". Like the FBI, however, the CIA could get away with anything.

Yet it took six days after drafting before it was mailed? Why? Isn't this something to have been handled with greatest dispatch? Willens' initials are dated 2/6.

Rankin asked for the reports and whatever. Is there anything in the file indicating he got them and what they are?

There here, too, persists the Commission effort to learn from the CIA, more than two months after the Commission was established, what one would have thought the CIA would have put into its hands the first day, "a report on the information the CIA had about Oswald "prior to November 22, 1963".

To say the Commission was informed by the SS is not to say it first learned from the SS that it had CIA reports the Commission didn't, which is what this letter really complains of. This suspicion raises the question, who on the Commission staff was worried that the CIA was holding back information it had? I've seen nothing in this file or elsewhere to indicate it is any of the staff lawyers. I wonder, therefore, if whoever had the suspicion may have been careful to leave no record of it. From here, one might wonder who told the Commission? Perhaps the SS did, but if they didn't, isn't the FBI is most likely next source? If the FBI, how could they do it without figuring in it, for they wouldn't want the CIA to know it is they who squealed? Willens was still on the DJ payroll and was the DJ lipson. This could be interpreted as pointing to him. Stern handled other CIA matters, not very well. Slawson may have heard it somewhere. Both these men got copies. Search of their files among the working papers might yield something, if there is anything here.

If the contents of the CIA Oswald file "until early October" contained not only clippings and documents from other agencies, where did they keep the picture, CD237/0dum 1? Didn't that and whatever accompanied it belong in the "oswald" file? Did the Commission ever get the entire file as of that date? They did ask.

The ellipsis is as strange as the contents. They talk only around the point. Why should the CIA have been expected to give other agencies what it got from still other agencies or from them and newspaper clippings-nothing else? No one would expect that, yet dissemination is requested. I think this indicates either the belief there was other contents (and FBI certainly should have been asked separately if it wasn't privately and verbally) or, what should be safe to assume, that there was a CIA commentary or analysis or both combined. Oswald's appearance at the foreign offices so carefully watched could have been a normal subject of some kind of comment, with some effort to attribute meaning to it, particularly because of his public record of defection. Its absence ^{does require} suspicion